

# ASRS WEEKLY REPORT

## ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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*For the week ending Friday, February 17, 2006*

This electronic report provides a briefing of news and notices important to our employer partners and our members. Please direct comments to [WeeklyReport@azasrs.gov](mailto:WeeklyReport@azasrs.gov).

## ASRS News

### Retirement-related Legislation under consideration this session

There are several bills before the legislature that may impact ASRS members. You can view a summary of these bills and track their progress by referring to the ASRS Bill Tracker, which is updated weekly and posted on our website.

Two bills members and employers may find of particular interest are highlighted below.

#### **House Bill 2335 – ASRS Continuation**

This bill, originally introduced to address the subject of return to work options, has become a striker and now contains language that extends the life of the Arizona State Retirement System through Jan. 1, 2017. Earlier this year, the ASRS received a positive response at its Sunset Hearing, which is conducted every 10 years by the state legislature to review state agencies to determine if there should be revisions, consolidation or termination of their operations. Last year, the ASRS received a generally favorable report from the Auditor General's Office, which was presented to the legislature as part of the Sunset process. This bill, sponsored by Rep. McClure, is progressing through the House.

#### **House Bill 2103 – Termination Incentive Programs**

This bill clarifies current statutory language put in place last year by changing the term "retirement" to "termination" with regard to termination incentive programs offered to members by employers. Sponsored by Rep. McClure, the bill has received a "do pass" vote from the Public Institutions and Retirement Committee.

### Educational meetings offered to inform, assist members

The Member Services Division of the ASRS conducts educational meetings available to all members. Whether you're newly hired and want to learn about the benefits available to you, or you're ready to retire and want assistance filling out your paperwork and making annuity selections, the ASRS has a meeting for you.

**Group Meetings** are designed for members within one year of retiring. You'll learn about potential monthly benefits and options, completing retirement paperwork, health insurance, and return-to-work options.

**Seminars** are open to all members and are especially helpful to new members. You'll learn about the ASRS, benefits as an active, inactive and retired member, member responsibilities, retirement benefit calculations, wills and trusts and Social Security benefits.

**Service Purchase Meetings** are open to all members. Here you'll learn about the Service Purchase Program, the process for purchasing service, types of service available for purchase, cost calculations and payment options.

Visit our website and click on the Calendar section to see a full listing, including our Spring state-wide travel schedule. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Member Service Advisory Center at (602) 240-2000 in Phoenix, (520) 239-3100 in Tucson, or (800) 621-3778 outside Phoenix and Tucson.

## ASRS Employer News

### New address for mailing checks to the ASRS

The Arizona State Retirement System has a new mailing address to be used solely for mailing checks to the ASRS.

The new mailing address is:

ASRS  
P.O. Box 34030  
Phoenix, AZ 85067-4030

This address is now in use for all employer correspondence containing a check. Employer contribution payments should be remitted to this new address.

Please continue to use this separate address for all other correspondence that does not include a check:

ASRS  
P.O. Box 33910  
Phoenix, AZ 85067-3910

### ER 101 Workshops planned for 2006

The Employer Relations staff is offering its popular ER 101 Workshops, designed specifically for new employer staff who have not worked with the retirement system and want to learn the basics.

ER 101 focuses on the very basics of the ASRS. The workshops have proven especially helpful for staff in new positions of responsibility in accounting, benefits, human resource or payroll areas.

Subject matter includes: determining membership; Long Term Disability; reporting contributions; the Return to Work Program; Health Insurance Premium Benefit Program; a review of the new ASRS Employer Manual, and completing ASRS forms.

ER 101 Workshops are scheduled for **March 15 and April 18**. The workshops are from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room. Space is limited, so make your reservations now! For information and reservations, contact:

Michelle Fink, Administrative Project Coordinator  
Metro Phoenix Phone: 602-308-5107  
Metro Tucson 520-239-3100 ext. 5107  
1-800-621-3778 Ext. 5107  
E-mail: michellef@azasrs.gov

## Board & Committee Meetings

### ASRS Board of Trustees

Friday, March 17, 2006, 8:30 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room.

### External Affairs Committee

Friday, March 3, 2006, 10 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14<sup>th</sup> floor.

### Operations Committee

Thursday, March 23, 2006, 10:30 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14<sup>th</sup> floor.

### Investment Committee

Wednesday, April 5, 2006, 5:30 p.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14<sup>th</sup> floor.

*Note: All Board & Committee meetings are open to the public and your attendance is encouraged. Schedules, agendas and minutes of meetings are posted on our website and are available at our Phoenix and Tucson offices.*